

# The Valley COMIC N . E . W . S



ISSUE # 60  
April 2, 1992

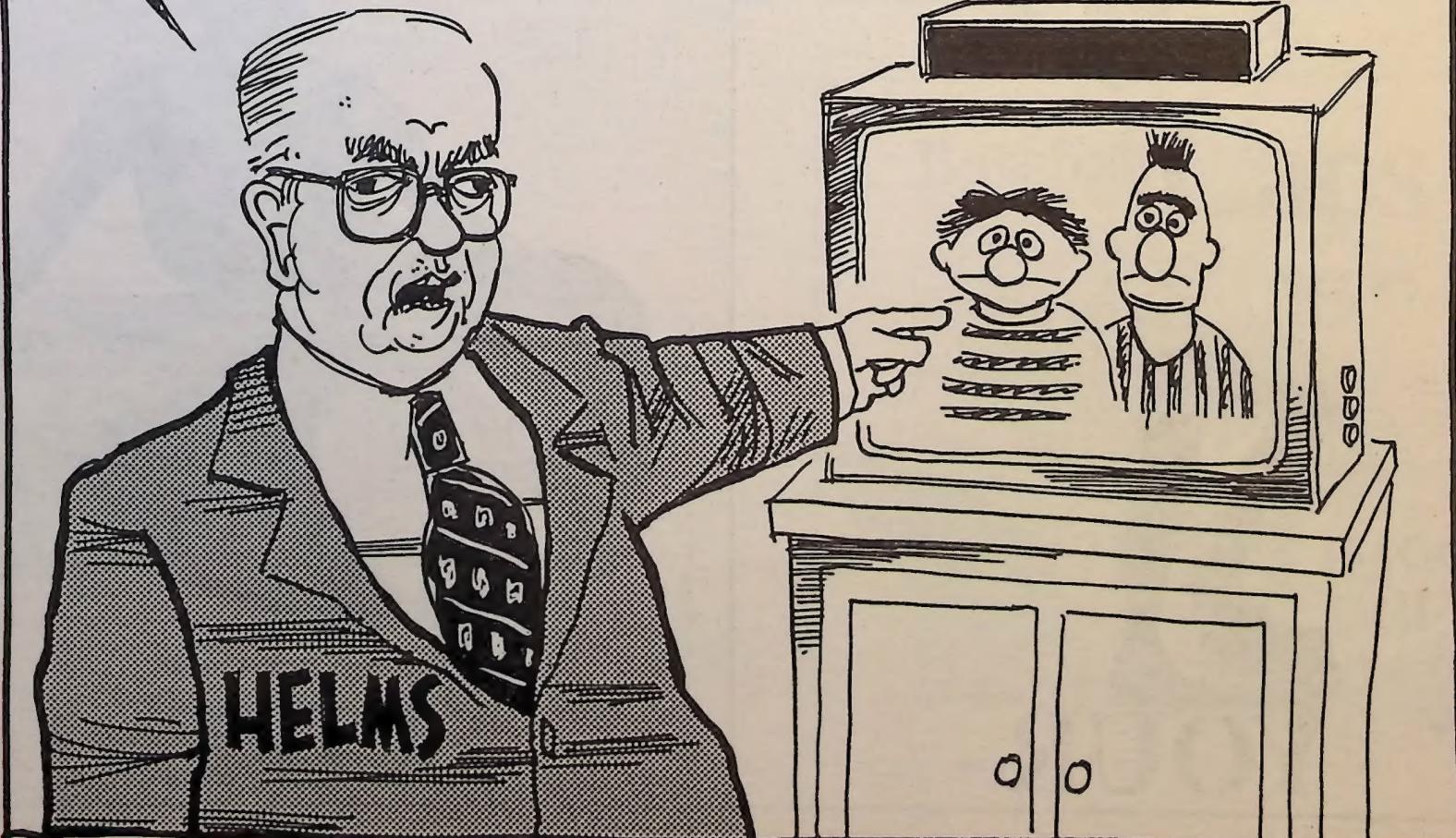
FREE

FEATURES: THE FAR SIDE, DOONESBURY,  
CALVIN & HOBBS, VIEWS OF THE WORLD,  
TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT, THE BRASS AND FERN,  
EARTHWEEK, IZZY GESELL'S *HUMOR ME*,  
JOE BOB BRIGGS, LEOLD AT 15,  
THIS MODERN WORLD, LOCAL HEROES

STORIES: LIKE A RUBBER BALL  
HOT & COLD RUNNING CANDIDATES  
FOOTING THE BILL  
THINGS ARE TOUGH ALL OVER  
CHALLENGER DISASTER  
WAY DOWN SOUTH IN JO-BURG

PUBLIC TELEVISION  
IS PROMOTING THE LEFT-WING,  
HOMOSEXUAL LIFESTYLE!

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# YOUR



# LIFE

Photo: Jennifer Burdick

# PAGE THREE

by Mike Chrisman

At least now I know how I'm gonna make my fortune. See, these people in Maine are trying to sell their house. It's appraised at \$344,000; it's on a 1-acre lot overlooking a salt marsh and bay; and it's about a mile by water from President Bush's vacation home! All I have to do is explain in 250 words why I would like to live by the water in Kennebunkport. And when my entry is judged the best for its "style, content, originality and wit," the place is mine! Here's the winning entry:

Who *wouldn't* want to live a short jog from our First Family? I'd be totally psyched to pull on the old cross-trainers and pound out a few miles with Poppy. There's so much an active president could learn from jogging with an ordinary citizen. I'd go, "Mr. Prez, me and your sons have a lot in common, being as we're about the same age, and *none of us went to Vietnam!* And isn't it neat how Bill Clinton's gettin' beat up for not goin', but nobody badmouths *your boys* about it? Hee hee."

Next I'd say, "Plus, it's just not fair what they're sayin' about you and this Halcion. Sure, you want people to Say No To Drugs, but you're talkin' about drugs that make people become *insane sex addicts!* Your Halcion there -- why, that just makes you *feel better.* Can't count a *feel-good* drug as somethin' you've gotta say No to!"

Then I'd tell him, "Who *cares* if America doesn't have a family policy? You never *said* you were gonna be the *family president!* So what if *Sweden* says mothers can get ten weeks of paid time off when they have a baby? American women are *much* tougher than that! When was the last time any *Swedish* women won an Olympic hundred-meter dash?"

With all those government types around him, a president *needs* to talk to a regular person now and then. I'm as patriotic as anybody. That's why I'd like to move to Kennebunkport. The president *needs* me.

Pretty American essay, huh? The only catch is the people who own the house are asking everybody who writes an essay to send 99 dollars along with it. That way, if they get 3,500 entries, they'll get what they want for their house, and *I'll* get a three-bedroom house for 99 bucks!

Except I haven't got 99 bucks. I've barely got 99 cents.

But I *know* there are people out there who *do* have 99 simoleons...far-sighted people...people unafraid to take a tiny risk...people who know a sure thing when they see it. So my generous offer to the investing public is that if anybody sends me \$99, or if two people send me \$45 each, or eleven people send me \$9...whatever, when I win the house I'll sell it for as much as I can squeeze the market for, and then divvy up the proceeds evenly between me and every one of those visionary characters who had the faith to invest in me when I was just a little guy reaching for the stars.

Just *do it*, reading public. My fortune is your fortune. It's the American way.

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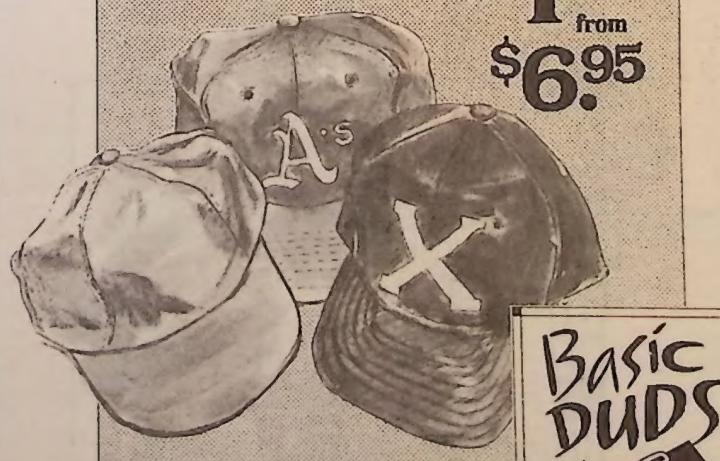
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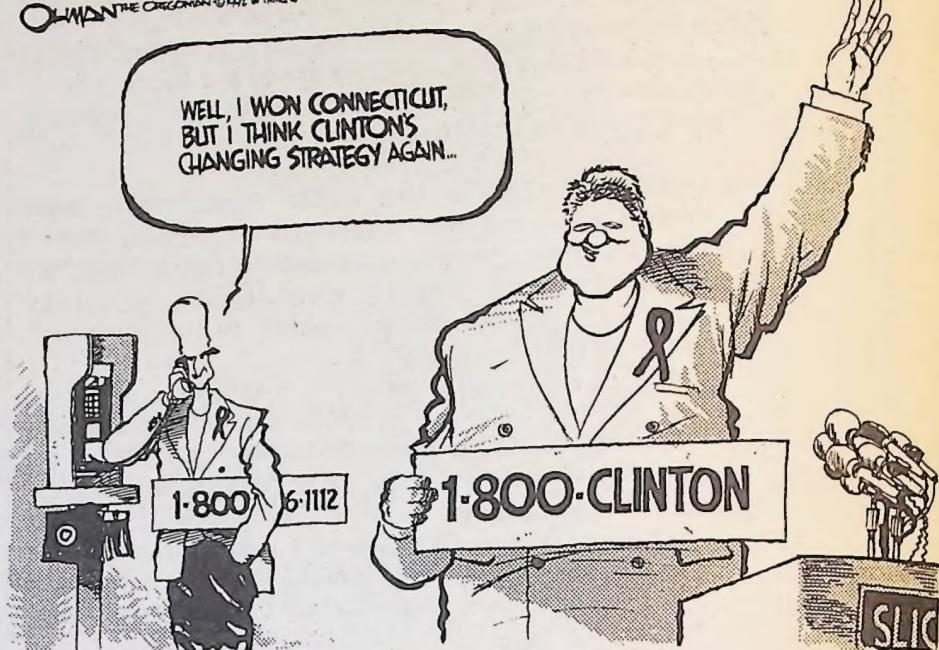
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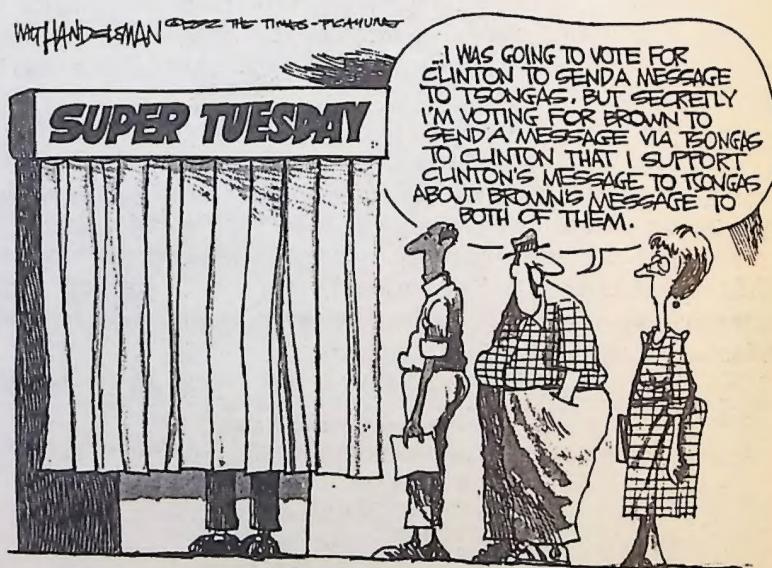
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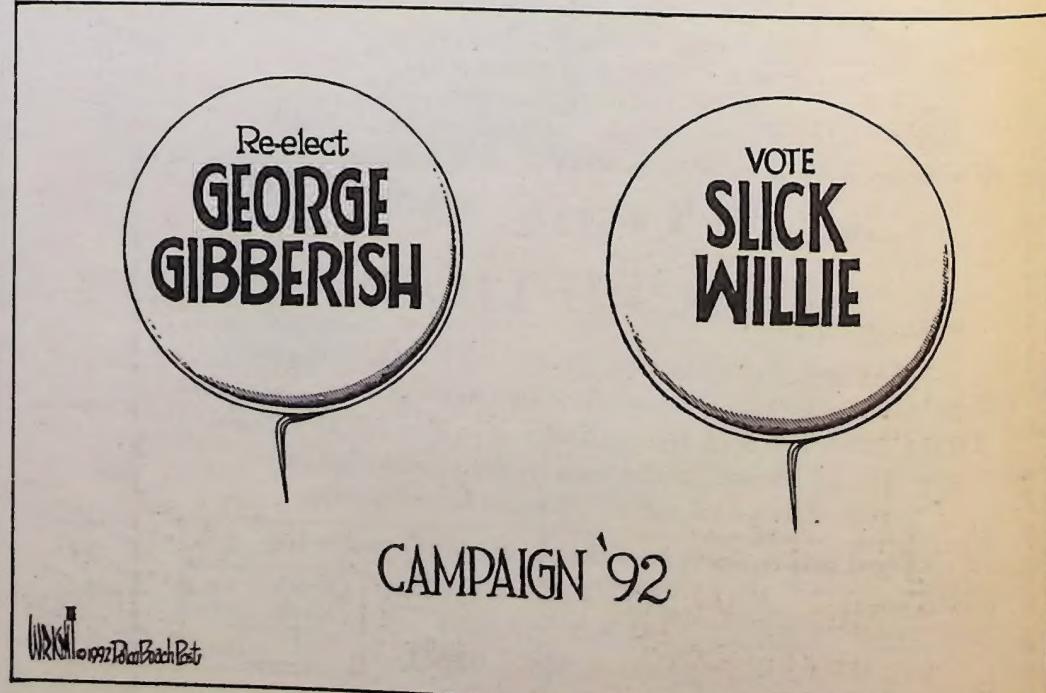
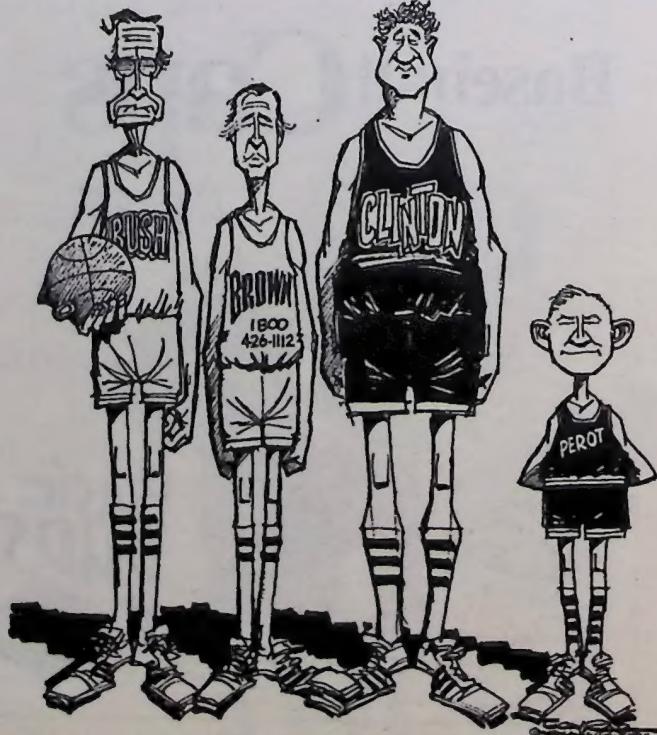
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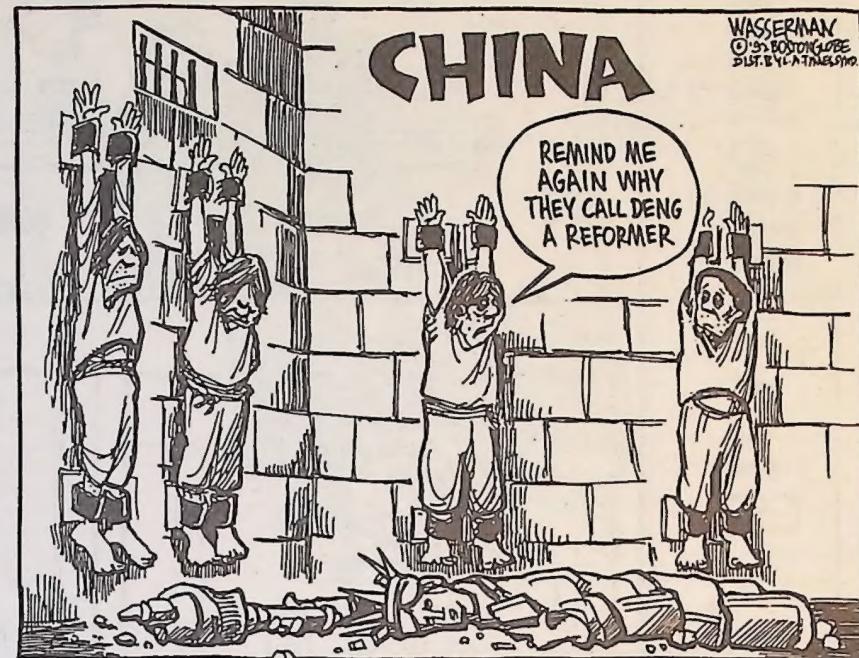
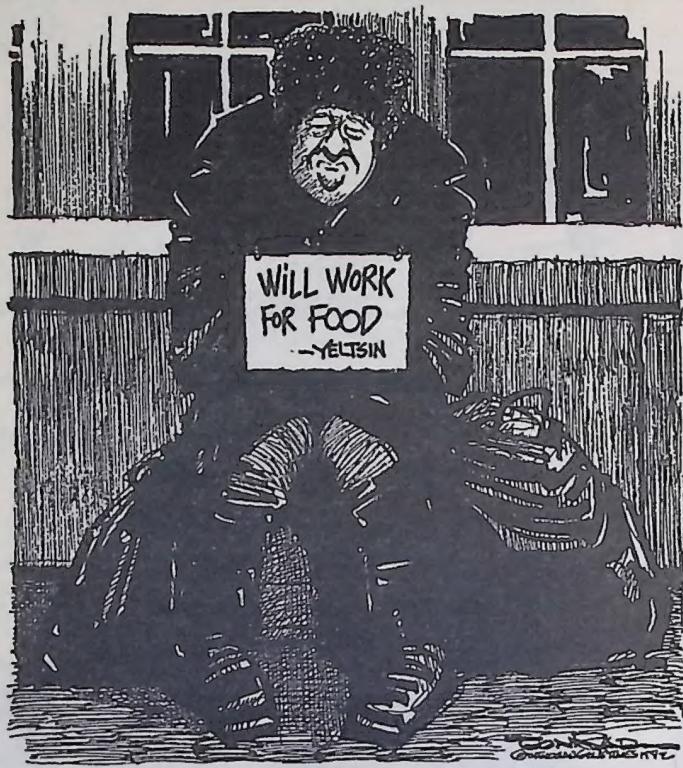
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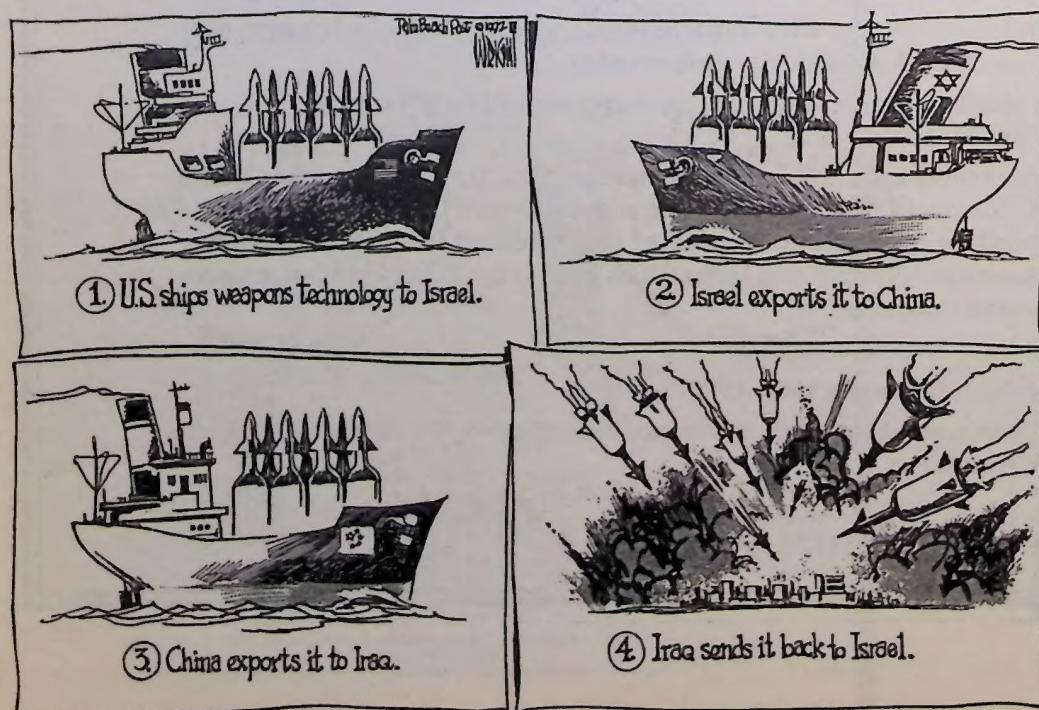
THE FINAL FOUR



# THINGS ARE TOUGH ALL OVER

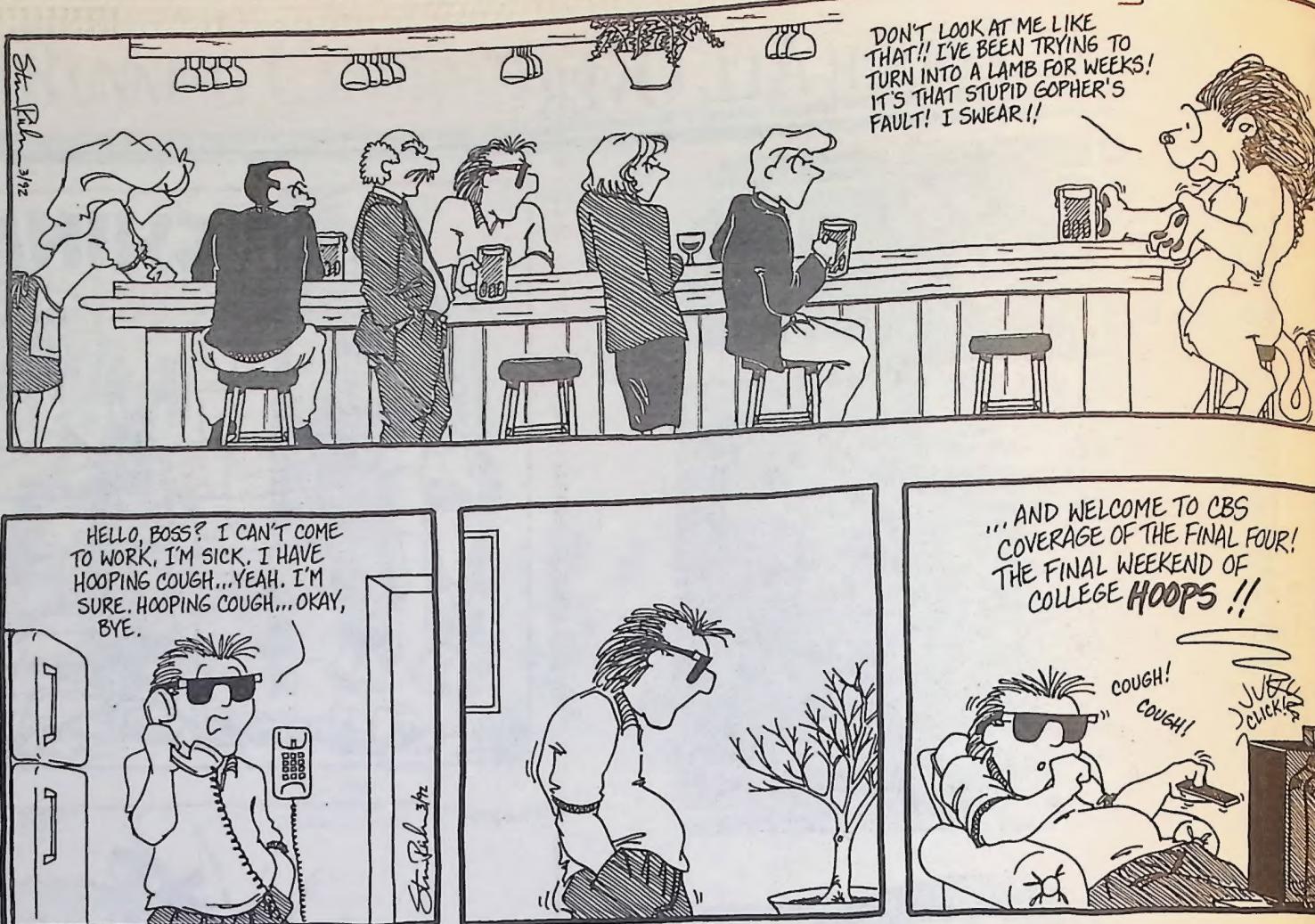


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By Steve Riehm



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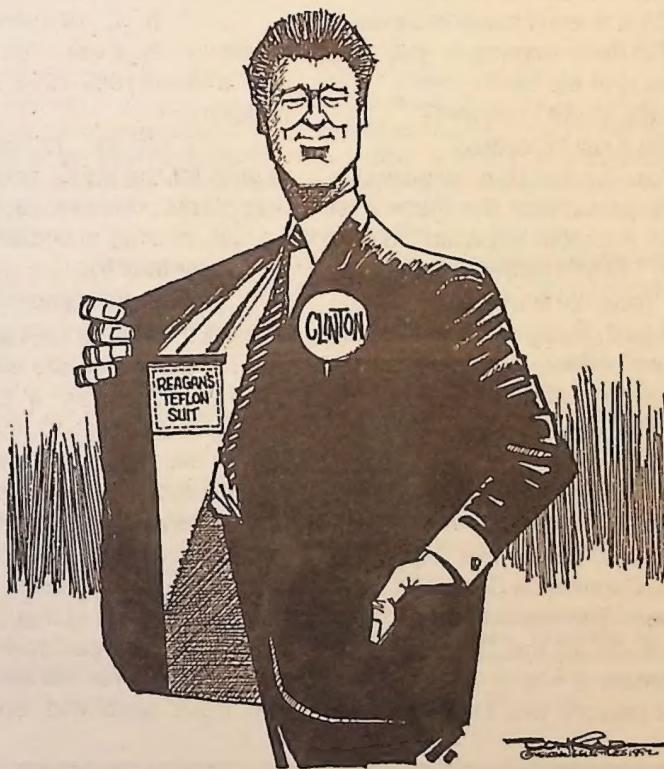
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# FOOTING THE BILL





## El Niño

 The abnormally warm ocean water phenomenon El Niño has caused further climatic disruptions in various locations around the world. Torrential rains in coastal Peru, which are common during the height of an El Niño episode, have recently caused widespread destruction of crops and homes. Inundations from nearly-incessant downpours destroyed 90 percent of the public and private infrastructure in Tumbes department, 800 miles northwest of Lima, according to civil defense officials.

The same warm current is being blamed for a searing heat wave that sent temperatures soaring to over 100 degrees from Costa Rica to Honduras. Tegucigalpa experienced its worst hailstorm in 20 years after a record afternoon high temperature of 102 degrees.

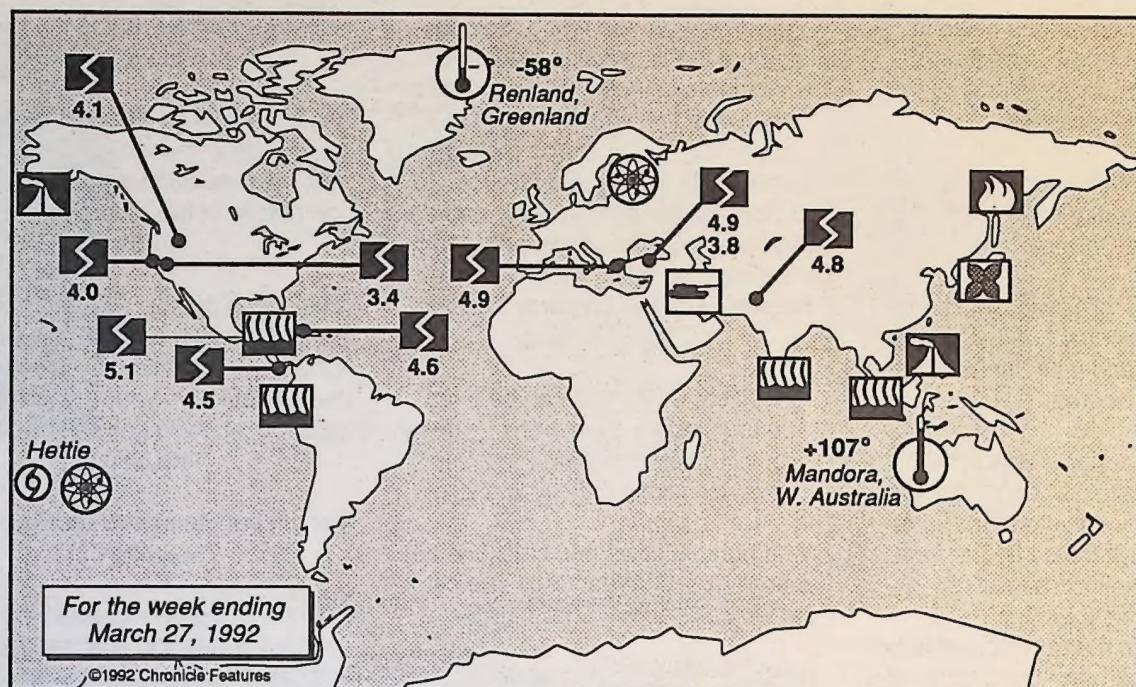
Government meteorologists say that a severe drought which has plagued the Philippines and Sri Lanka in recent months, and unseasonably hot and dry weather in Malaysia, are the result of atmospheric anomalies caused by El Niño.

## Earthquakes

 Two strong quakes rocked eight Turkish provinces only hours after an earlier tremor struck hard-hit eastern Erzincan where people rushed into the streets in panic. In Greece, a series of tremors beneath the seabed caused panic among the residents on the island of Milo. Quakes were also felt in northern Pakistan, eastern Cuba, Guatemala, Panama, northern California, Montana, and western Nevada.

## Wildfires

 A forestfire caused a huge explosion when it spread to an ammunition depot of the Russian Pacific fleet near Vladivostok. Firemen prevented flames from reaching another depot where large shells were stored.



## Volcanoes

 Seismologists detected several high-frequency tremors from both Taal and Pinatubo volcanoes in the Philippines, all within a 24-hour period. Since water temperatures and levels in the main crater lake at Taal showed no significant changes, residents in the area were not evacuated as during the violent activity of mid-February. The quakes beneath Pinatubo were mostly unfeared in the area, but people living within a 6-mile radius of the mountain were warned of the possibility of further mud flows and volcanic explosions.

Akutan Volcano in the Aleutian Islands erupted with a 2-mile-high plume of ash and steam.

## Tropical Storm

 Weak tropical cyclone Hettie formed over the extreme southern waters of French Polynesia with maximum winds of only 45 miles per hour.

## War Litter

 Torrential rains uncovered thousands of Iraqi mines planted in Kuwait during the Gulf War. Many were exposed in areas previously thought to have been cleared, including some in the Andalus residential area just outside Kuwait City.

## Nuclear News

 Small amounts of radioactive gas were released into the atmosphere near St. Petersburg after a malfunction forced a Russian nuclear power to be shut down. The incident was officially classified as "not serious".

The ship Rainbow Warrior, owned by Greenpeace, sailed to just off the French nuclear testing site at Mururoa Atoll in the South Pacific. The group says it plans to set up a "peace camp" on the atoll, and to take samples to verify claims by France that there has been no radioactive leakage or contamination.

## Floral Front

 Weather forecasters in Japan tracked the movement of an annual front as it spread northward across a nation celebrating a festive and colorful holiday period. The leading edge of the cherry blossom front is plotted each spring on television and in newspapers, adding a modern sense of urgency to the age-old Japanese springtime custom of lying in the park, contemplating flowers, singing, and drinking rice wine. Maps like those used to plot storms show the front's progress for those planning "hanami" or flower-watching parties. This year's early blossoming has caused problems for festival organizers who set their dates long in advance according to traditional calculations.

**Additional Sources:** Japanese Meteorological Agency, Meteo France, Fiji Weather Bureau at Nadi, U.S. Climate Analysis Center, U.S. Earthquake Information Center and the World Meteorological Organization.

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# TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT

by L.M. Boyd

Stringers of telephone cable in Germany reportedly use trained dachshunds to snake lines through narrow passages.

According to an Irish publication, there lives in Dublin today a 14-year old girl named Carmel Korn.

Q. What's the "pilomotor reaction"? A. That scalp contraction that makes your hair stand up when you're scared.

Am now told that phrase "to wear your heart on your sleeve" dates back to knights who went into battle with scarves of their ladies tied around their arms.

Your short-term memory is said to be best at about 9 a.m. Long-term, at about 3 p.m. That's what the specialists report. Why memory varies this way throughout the day remains unexplained.

Many of the faithful in the Middle Ages believed God closed down Hell every Sabbath to give tormented souls a chance to catch their breath.

Q. Who were the first people to engage in the practice of kissing? A. Ancients in India. At least, that's where the first written record of it appeared. Later, some mention turned up in Persia and Greece. In old Rome, it became a highly popular pastime of the elite. They prepped by perfuming their lips. Then along came herpes. And the Emperor Tiberius outlawed kissing.

In Chico, Calif., you can be fined \$500 or jailed for six months if you're convicted of exploding a nuclear device within the city limits.

What horses, cows and chickens eat we call "feed." What dogs and cats eat we call "food." English is weird.

Those who document the devices of fortune tellers report that one Kansas City entrepreneur recounts (for money) the previous lives of his clients' teddy bears.

If you insist the commanding general is always female, you're probably talking about army ants.

Norway's murder rate is the lowest in the world.

Ask the fellow on the next stool when major leaguers used yellow baseballs in some regulation games. If he's up on details of the diamond, he'll say 1939.

Historians dug up a buried trash pit under the porch of Abraham Lincoln's home in Springfield, Ill. To learn only that Lincoln as a young attorney took medicine, ate wild game, and dined on fine china.

Many a pet cat in ancient Egypt wore earrings.

None of the youngsters who like peanut butter and jelly sandwiches likes them if the peanut butter and jelly are mixed before they're spread. A Girl Scout executive told me that.

Q. What were the dying words of artist Pablo Picasso? A. "Drink to me."

If typical, you had all the brain cells you were ever going to get by the time you were six months old.

When a Roman soldier in Egypt accidentally killed a cat in 80 BC, a mob of infuriated locals executed him.

Those who know all about gulls say the female of the species won't lay eggs unless at least 20 other gulls are nearby to watch her performance.

A "fedora" is a low soft felt hat with its crown creased lengthwise. Highly popular in bygone years. First person to wear such headgear was French actress Sarah Bernhardt. When she performed in Paris in a play by Victorien Sardou. Name of the play: "Fedora."

Add Leonardo inventions: Scissors.

A newborn hare can hop immediately. A newborn rabbit can't do that. It can't even walk.

In west central Brazil live the Nambiquara — natives to the region. Their language is theirs alone. It contains no numbers.

Wild geese can catch the flu.

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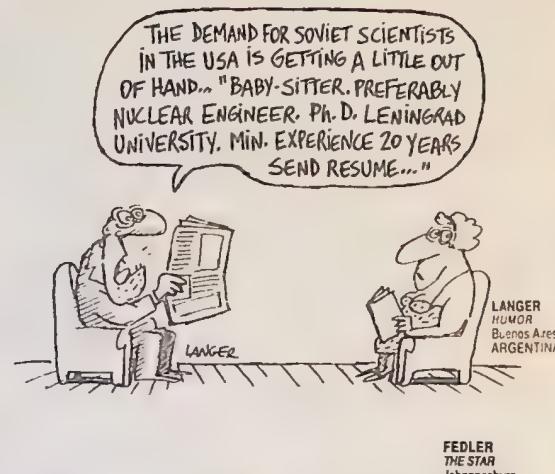
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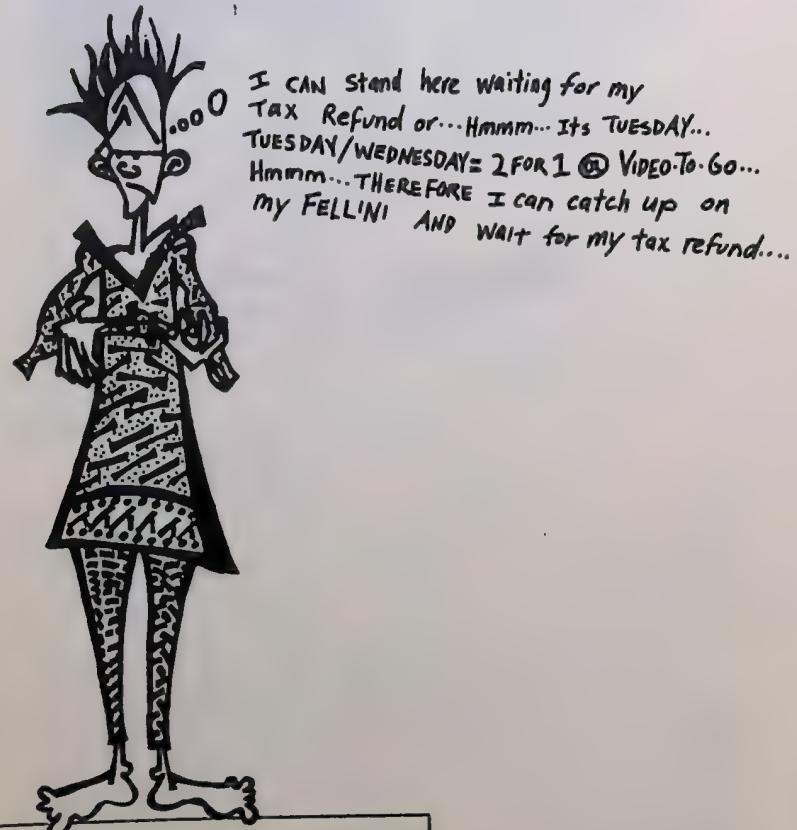
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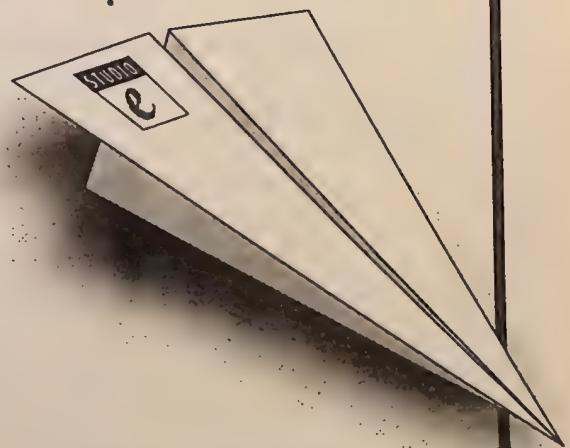


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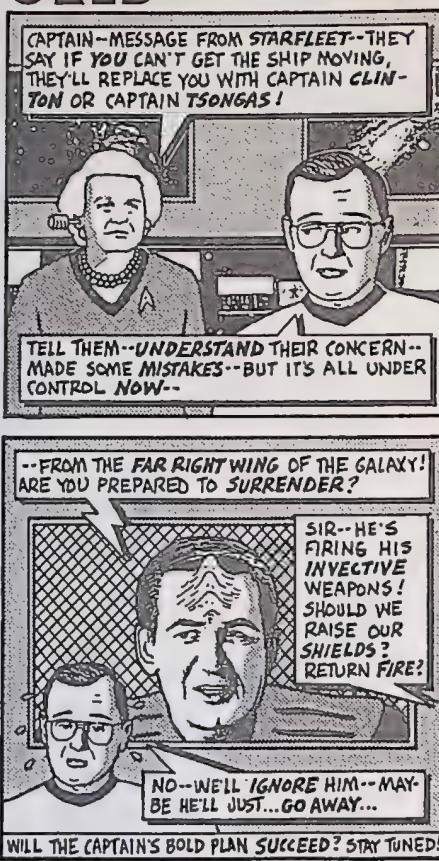
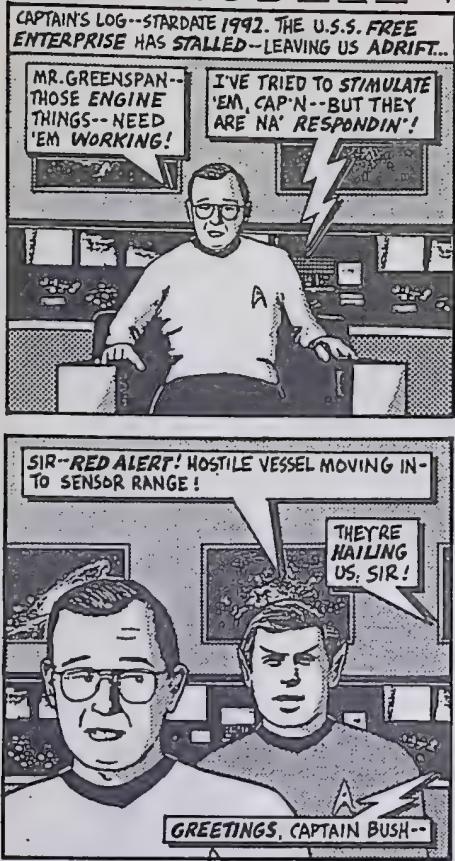


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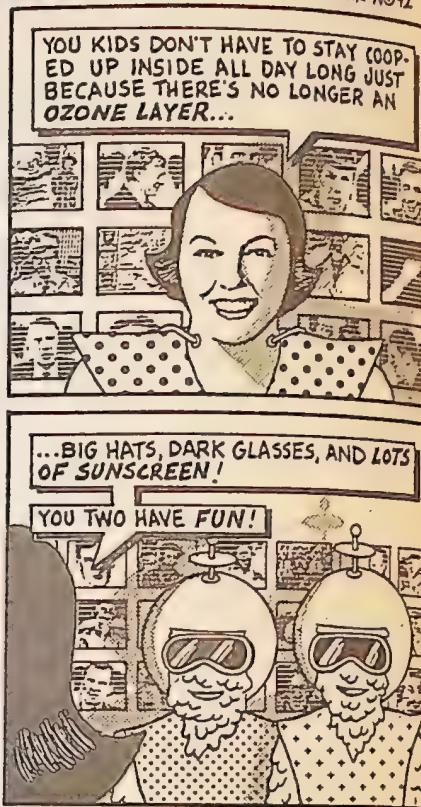


# THIS MODERN WORLD BY TOM TOMORROW

## THIS MODERN WORLD



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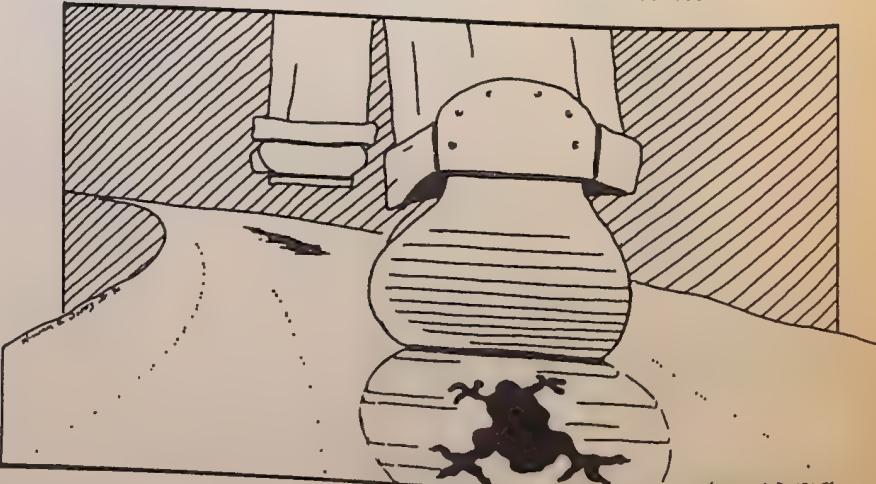
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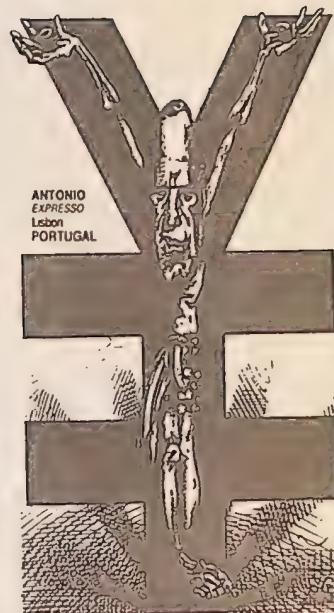
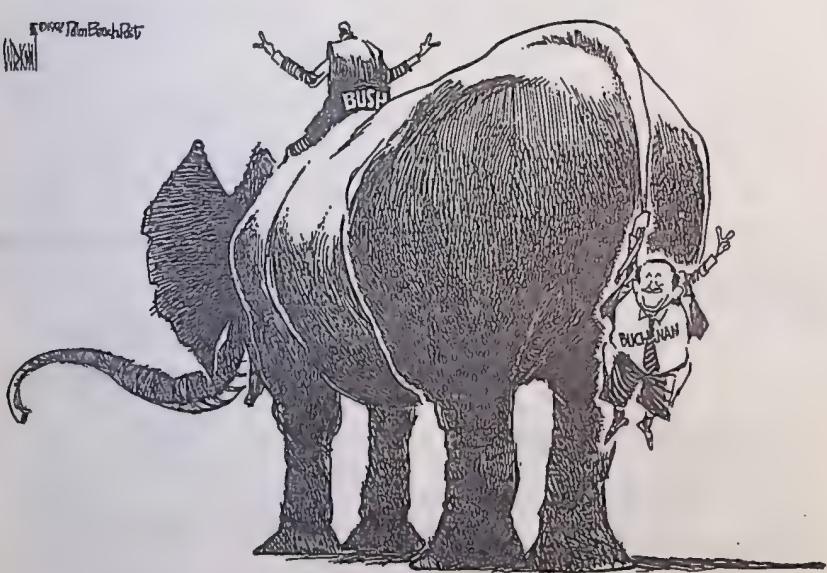
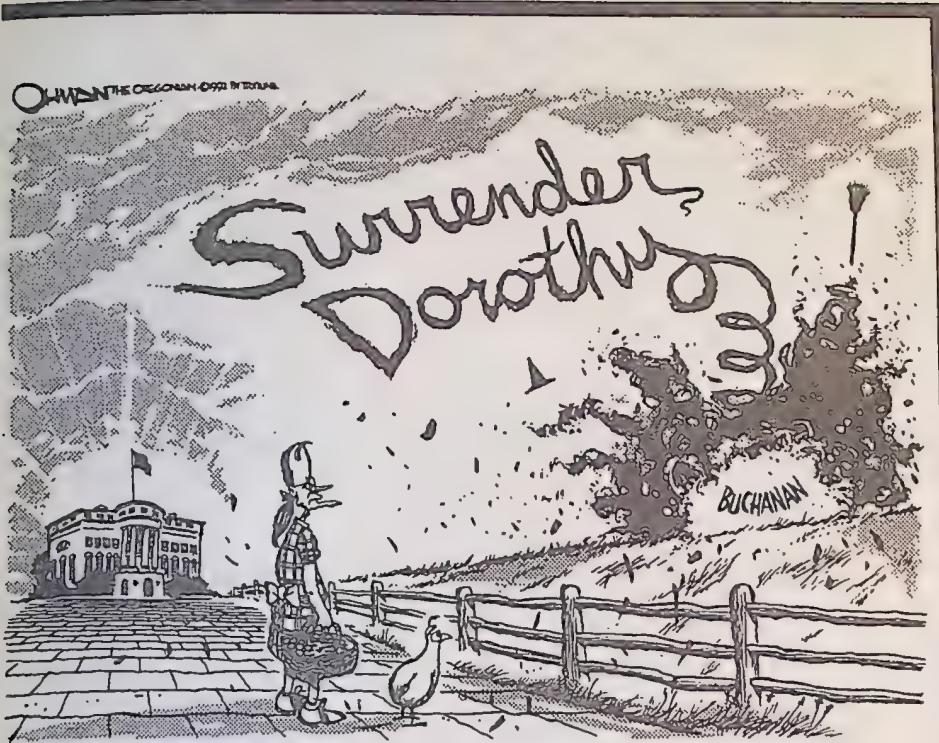
### THINK'R



### THINK'R



# CHALLENGER DISASTER



## The Valley Cryptic News by Julie Alger

On my way to UMass the other Friday morning I innocently picked up a *Valley Comic News* to read on the bus. I was in a fine mood: it was payday, end of the week, a pleasant morning. I kicked back and relaxed, caught up on "The Far Side" and chuckled at the international cartoons...until I came to a somber, captionless pen-and-ink drawing from a Lisbon newspaper. There on the page was a suffering George Bush nailed up by his hands and feet to an angular kind of cross. They really know how to blaspheme in Catholic countries, I thought admiringly. Bush's lugubrious face and scrawny limbs were contorted in Gothic agony. He wore a Stars and Stripes loincloth, and smoky rays emanated from the base of the double-barred "cross" as if he were also being burned at the stake. The drawing was powerful, emotional — but what did it mean?

After I arrived at my office and booted up the computer I examined the cartoon again. I still didn't get it, and I began to feel threatened. I prefer to think of myself as Well-Read, Intelligent, Somewhat Sophisticated, in fact as a Wrissie (an acronym for our times here in the Educated Valley).

Wrissies of various ages and styles, from bright undergrads to jaded know-it-alls, began to come into my office. I resisted exposing my ignorance to them, but soon curiosity prevailed. So one by one, I showed the cartoon to everyone I encountered that morning and in the Campus Center at lunchtime. "Explain it to me," I would say. And everyone gave the same sheepish response: "It obviously means *something*. It's very well-drawn, isn't it?" On those two points we all agreed, but by Friday afternoon nobody had figured it out. How obscure could it be? It was a syndicated cartoon, after all!

In desperation I called the VCN. I reached Mike Chrisman, The Editor himself, who had selected the cartoon and placed it on the page. My breath quickened; the mystery would now be solved. But no! *Mike didn't get it either!* He said there are so many knowledgeable people in the Valley that he was sure some of them would understand it — and it was very well-drawn. Besides, it fit perfectly in that spot. Made sense to me. And he can't be accused of pushing any specific ideology. I thanked Mike and hung up, but I was too committed to end my quest. Surely the answer was within reach. Maybe it was a Russian cross, or the emblem of some European political party. I'd look it up at home, I thought.

None of my books had the answer, so on Saturday I brought my wrinkled copy of the VCN to local Wrissie headquarters, the reference desk of the Jones Library. The librarian admired the quality of the cartoon ("very well-drawn") and directed me to a shelf of books about symbols. Forty minutes of research turned up only a medieval stonecutter's mark faintly resembling the mystery object — close, but no cigar. I stuffed the paper back into my bag and went forth with the librarian's parting words, the same ones everyone else (including Mike Chrisman) had said, "Let me know if you find out." How had I been chosen for this ordeal?

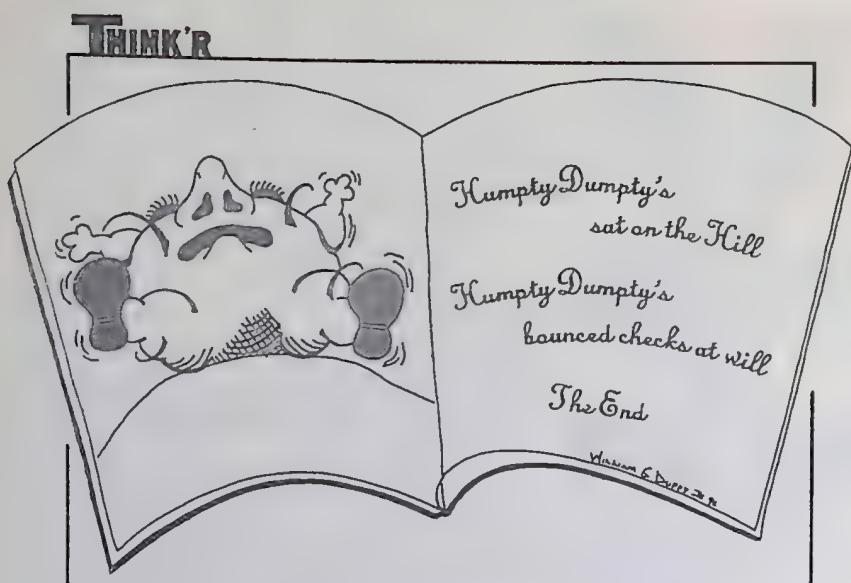
By now I was a terrifying presence on the streets of Amherst. The winter sun advanced my shadow ominously along North Pleasant Street. Acquaintances scattered at my approach for fear I would pull IT out of my bag and demand an explanation. Dogs tucked their tails and ran; children clung to parents' legs; Star Trek buffs signaled the Klingon warning "Lohc-jwt-ca!" meaning, "Look out, here comes Julie with that cartoon again!" Villagers, I was sure, were gathering their torches and stakes.

Whew! It was time to go home and recover. I made myself a bland supper, crawled into my oldest pajamas, read some Jane Austen, and drank a cup of Sleepytime tea before turning out the light. In the dark, I chanted my mantra, "It's only a cartoon...only a cartoon..." to clear my mind of George Bush, international relations, the balance of trade, the slipping value of the dollar against the franc and the pound and the — Gasp!! My eyes flew open. Could it be the yen? I jumped up, turned on all the lights, rushed to the unabridged dictionary, and there it was: the obvious answer we all could have seen, should be embarrassed *not* to see.

I dragged out my tattered VCN one more time and recognized the artist's finishing touch: the rays of the Rising Sun glowing up at the base of the yen/cross. Of course, I told myself, I knew it all the time. I just wanted to see if anyone *else* got it.

But honestly, it was a bad day in Wrissiedom.

# LOCAL HEROES



Ham Radio (with cloves)

## DIARY OF A REBEL

suki litchfield

Wed: Went through the breakfast line backwards again.  
I think the lady's getting pissed.



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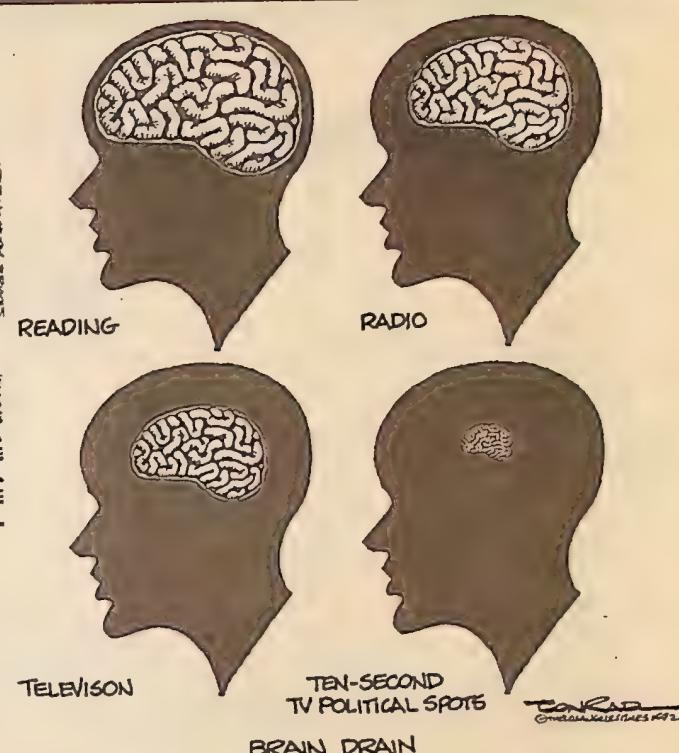
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# MISC. AND MATCH

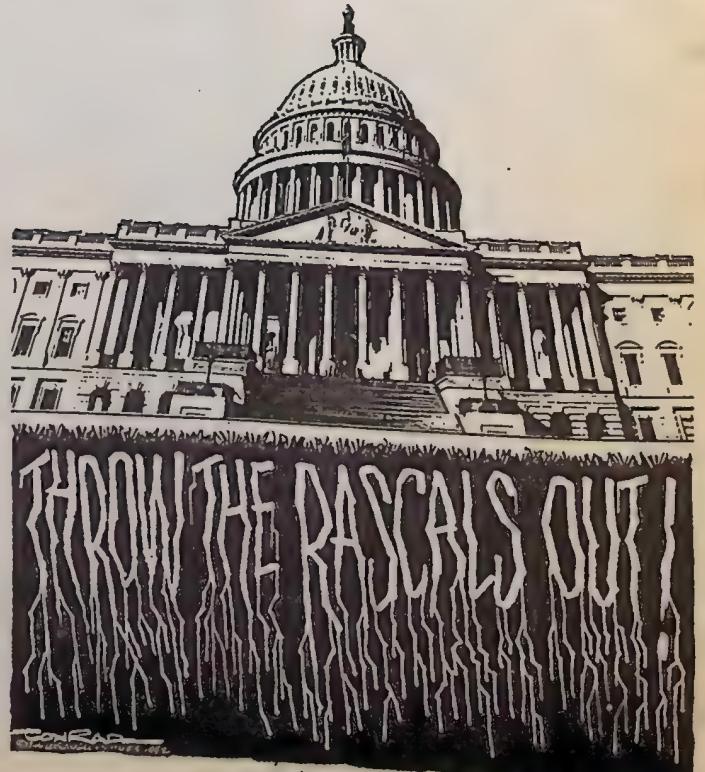
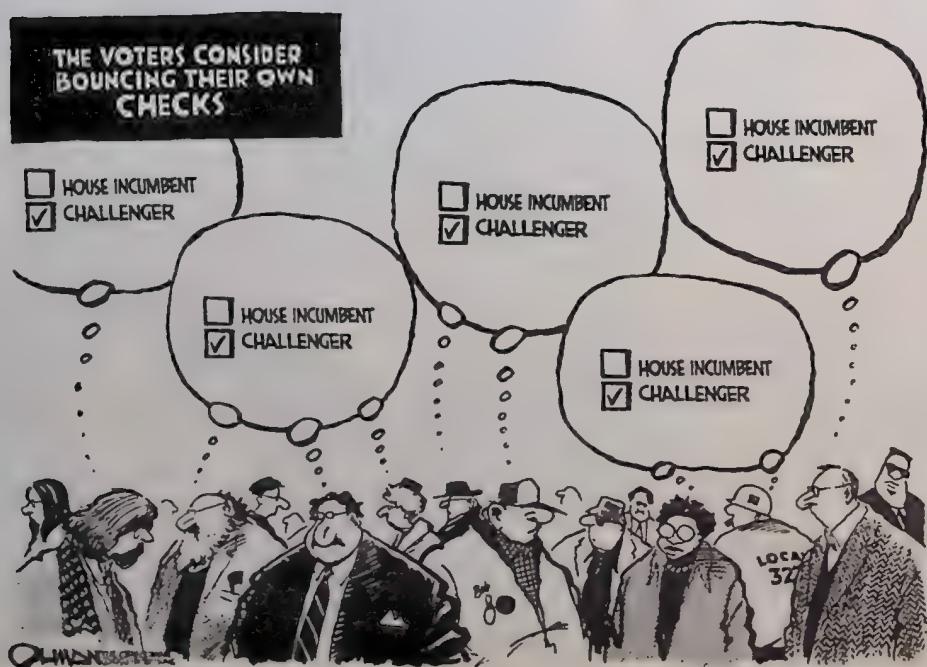
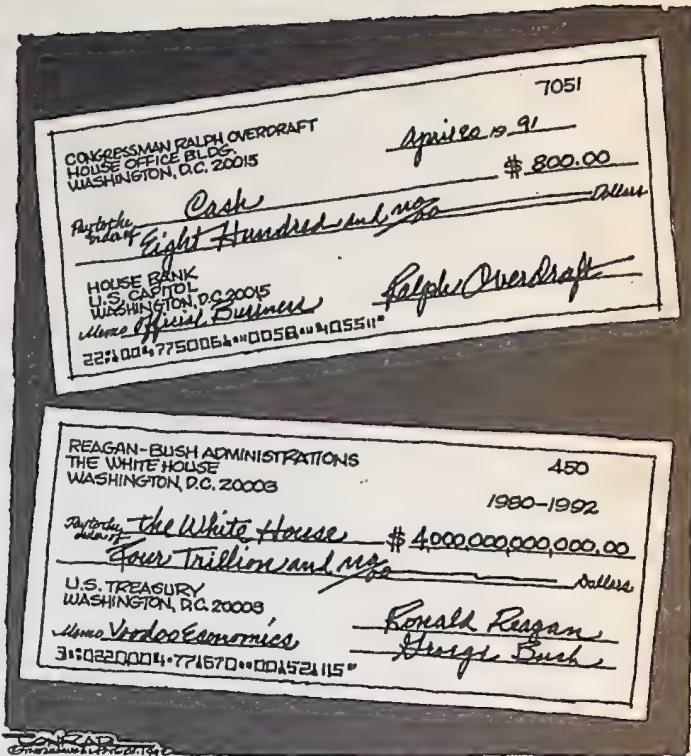
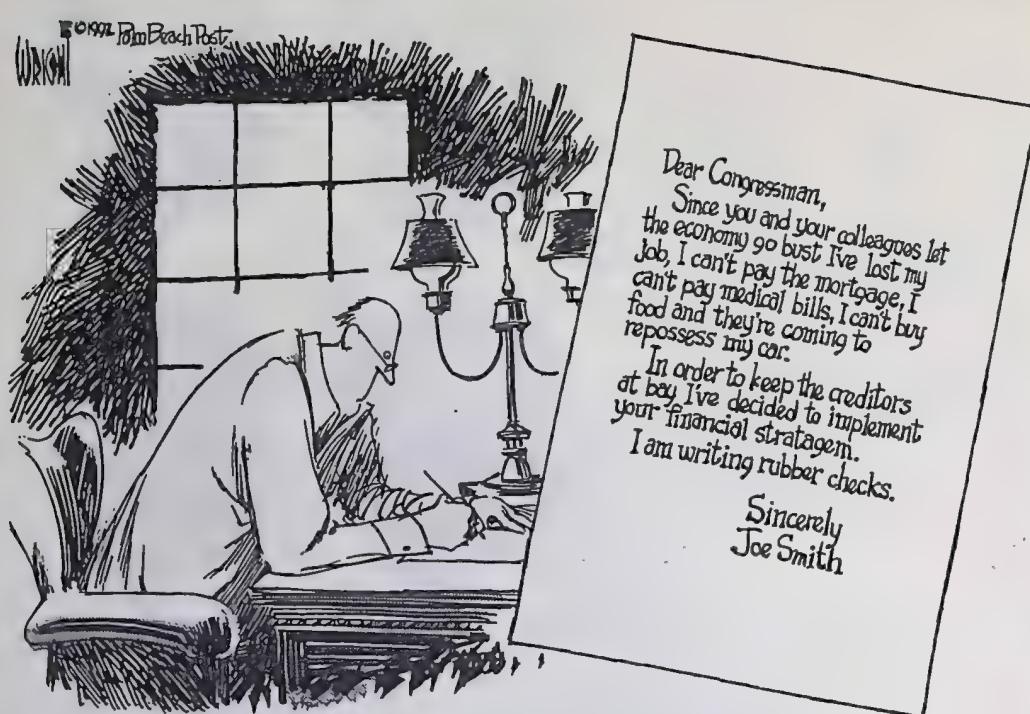


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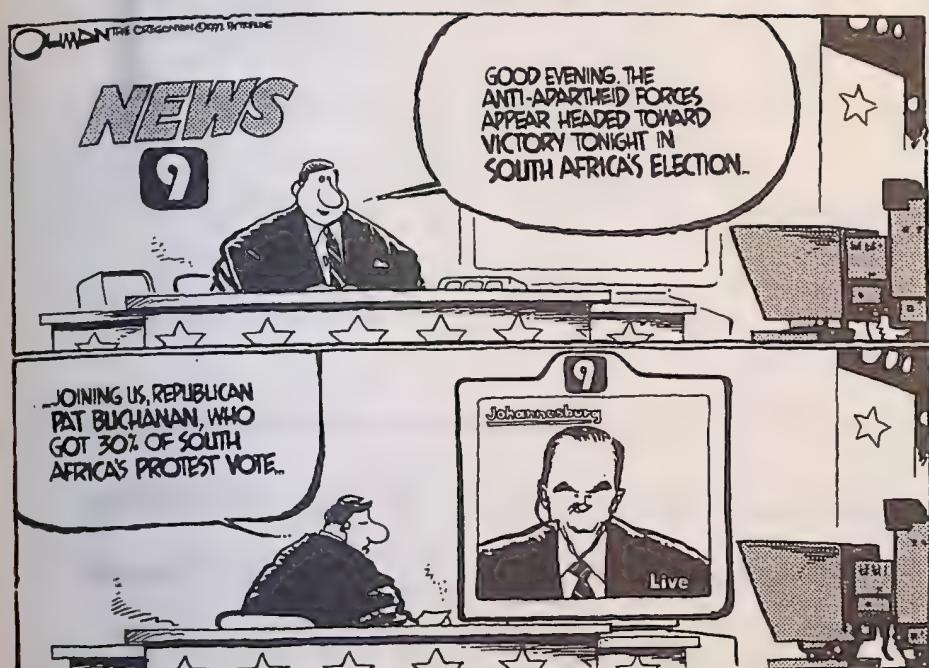


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# WAY DOWN SOUTH IN JO-BURG



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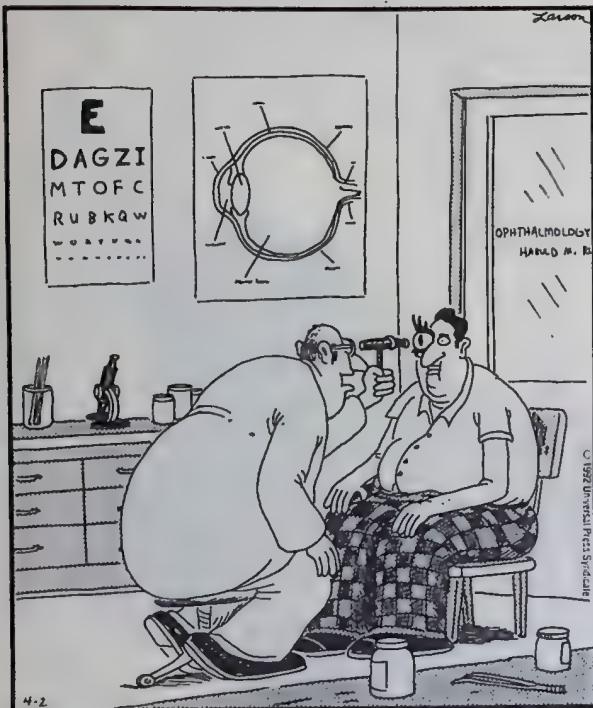


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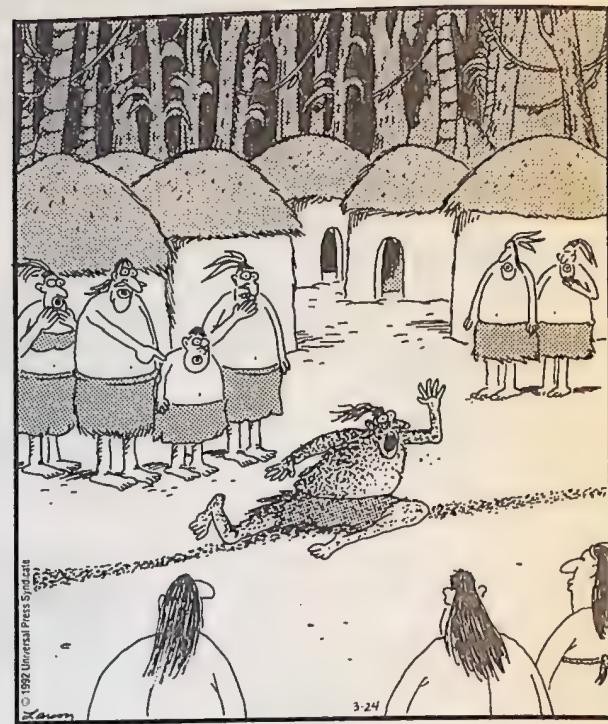
By GARY LARSON



"Oh, this is wonderful, Mr. Gruenfeld — I've only seen it a couple of times. You have corneal corruption. . . . Evil eye, Mr. Gruenfeld, evil eye."



**Donning his new canine decoder, Professor Schwartzman becomes the first human being on Earth to hear what barking dogs are actually saying.**



**Crossing the village, Mowaka is overpowered by army ants. (Later, bystanders were all quoted as saying they were horrified, but “didn’t want to get involved.”)**

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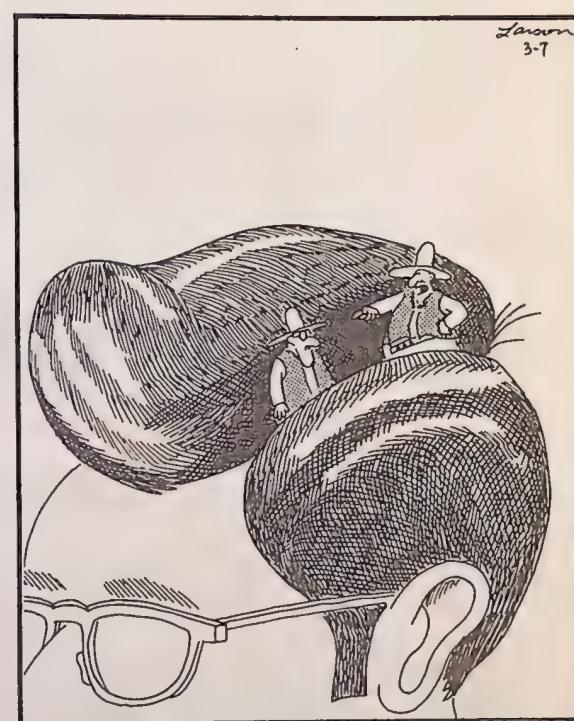
"It's 'Them,' gentlemen."



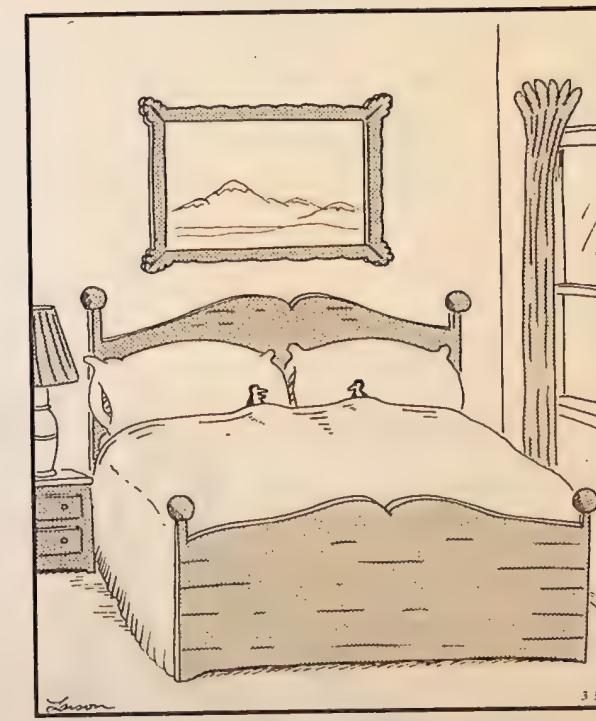
When seeing-eye dogs dream



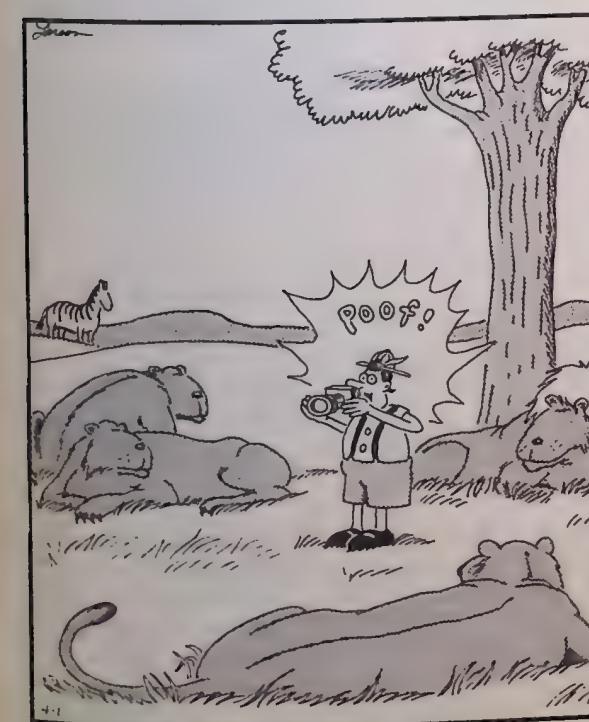
Custer's recurrent nightmare



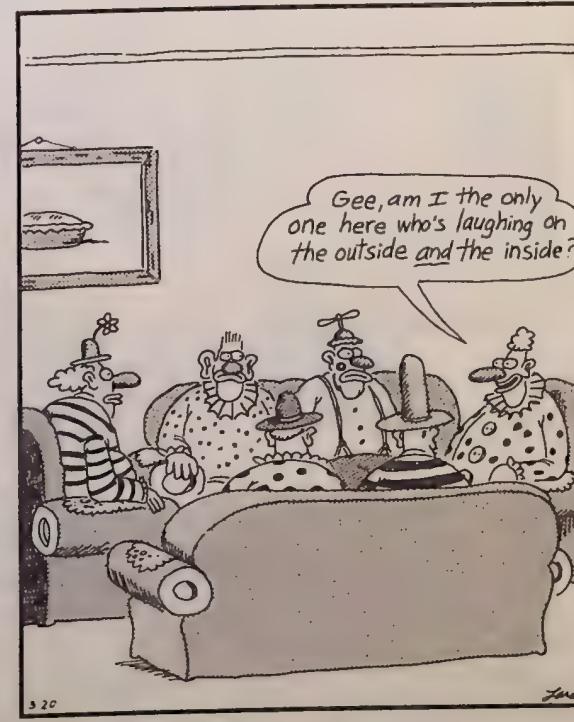
"Say, ain't you a stranger in this part?"



"Well, here we are, my little chickadee."



While vacationing in Africa, Pinocchio has his longtime wish to be a real boy suddenly and unexpectedly granted.



Clown therapy sessions



Rhino recitals

# LEOLD AT 15

BY ROGER SALLOOM

My mom's solar calculator was dirty.

I put it in the dishwasher. It's very clean now but it doesn't work.

Actually it does work, but it doesn't give the correct answers anymore...like myself.

Mom was very upset. She called me all kinds of names some of which I liked.

So....it all worked out for the best.

# calvin and Hobbes

by BILL WATTERSON



COUNTY LIBRARY? REFERENCE  
DESK, PLEASE. HELLO?  
YES, I NEED A WORD  
DEFINITION.



WELL, THAT'S THE PROBLEM.  
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO SPELL  
IT AND I'M NOT ALLOWED  
TO SAY IT.



COULD YOU JUST RATTLE  
OFF ALL THE SWEAR WORDS  
YOU KNOW, AND I'LL STOP  
YOU WHEN... HELLO??



SEE IF I EVER VOTE  
FOR THEIR TAX LEVIES.



5/27 1992

I DON'T NEED  
A BATH! I  
CAN STAY CLEAN  
WITHOUT ONE!



LOOK, I'LL LICK  
MYSELF CLEAN!  
THAT'S WHAT HOBBS  
DOES! SEE, I'M  
GETTING CLEAN  
JUST LIKE HIM!



NICE  
GOING.

5/27 1992

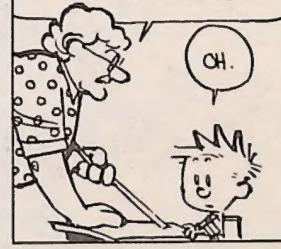
YOU HAVE A  
QUESTION,  
CALVIN?

YES! WHAT  
ASSURANCE DO  
I HAVE THAT  
THIS EDUCATION  
IS ADEQUATELY  
PREPARING ME  
FOR THE 21ST  
CENTURY?

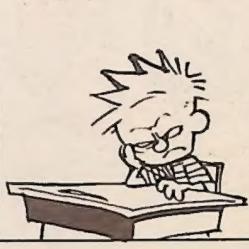
AM I GETTING THE SKILLS  
I'LL NEED TO EFFECTIVELY  
COMPETE IN A TOUGH, GLOBAL  
ECONOMY? I WANT A HIGH-  
PAYING JOB WHEN I GET OUT  
OF HERE! I WANT OPPORTUNITY!



IN THAT CASE, YOUNG MAN,  
I SUGGEST YOU START  
WORKING HARDER. WHAT YOU  
GET OUT OF SCHOOL DEPENDS  
ON WHAT YOU PUT INTO IT.



THEN  
FORGET IT.



WHATCHA  
DOING?

DAD WANTS TO  
MOW THE LAWN,  
SO HE'S MAKING  
ME PICK UP  
STICKS.

HE SAID I MIGHT LEARN  
SOMETHING ABOUT THE  
SATISFACTION THAT COMES  
FROM A JOB  
WELL DONE.



AND DID  
YOU?



I SUPPOSE  
SO.



MY TIGER IS DEEP  
IN SOMNOLEN SLEEP,  
DREAMING OF CHASES  
REMEMBERED!

HIS KEEN EYES ARE GLINTING.  
HE DREAMS OF A SPRINTING  
SAMBAR WHO'LL SOON BE  
DISMEMBERED!



THIS ARTICLE SAYS THAT  
BY AGE SIX, MOST CHILDREN  
HAVE WATCHED 5000 HOURS  
OF TV - A QUARTER OF THEIR  
WAKING LIVES!

I HAVEN'T WATCHED THAT MUCH!  
THINK OF ALL THE GREAT SHOWS  
I'VE MISSED! I'VE BEEN  
DEPRIVED OF CULTURAL  
REFERENCES! I'M IGNORANT  
OF COUNTLESS AMAZING  
PRODUCTS!



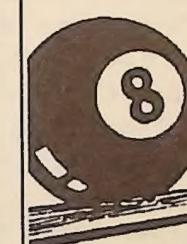
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## humor me

by Izzy Gesell

A recent *Vogue* magazine (or was it *Cosmo*?) pop-quiz asked the question, "What traits do you value most in another person?" Among women, a sense of humor was the number one answer. Among men, a sense of humor was the number TWO answer. (I don't remember what number one was for men but it makes a great fill-in-the-blank, don't you think?) Without doubt, a sense of humor has become a core value in American society.

Watching the presidential candidates debate, I realized the public and press are asking the wrong questions of the contenders. Since we Americans place such a high value on a sense of humor, it's imperative that we find out more about the candidates' sense of humor and what makes them laugh. "Hey, Bubba Clinton. Who is your favorite comedian? Hey, Beat-Around-The-Bush. Do you own Groucho glasses? Hey, Herr Buchanan. Have you ever laughed so hard you've wet your pants? Hey, California Guy. Which cartoons are hanging on your refrigerator?"

We need a president who can make us laugh while doing necessary but painful tasks such as reducing the deficit and dismantling the military-industrial complex. We need someone who can tell us the nasty truth without worrying about whether the public is offended. One of the main functions of humor in society is to transmit difficult-to-hear information in a socially acceptable way. We can take the tough stuff if we can reduce the hurt by laughing. George Bernard Shaw (or was CNN's Bernard Shaw?) once said, "If you ever want to tell someone the truth, better make him laugh or he'll kill you." As P. Shaw believes, "a lot of truth is said in jest."

So why elect a man who is going to do whatever he has to in order to get along with the establishment? Let's elect someone who will thumb his nose at the powers that be. Someone who will throw a pie in the face of Congressional leaders. Someone who will stick his foot out when the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court walks by. Someone who will designate one day a year as Hawaiian Shirt Day in America. This country NEEDS an ADMITTED clown, prankster, comedian in the White House for the simple reason that being president is no laughing matter. We need a chief executive who can take the job seriously while he takes himself lightly.

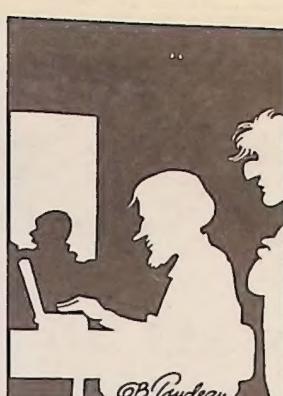
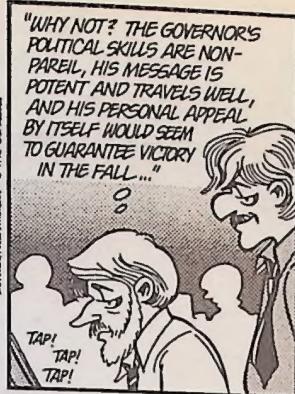
Instead of the usual bunch of self-serving, retread politicians, the next president should choose comedians for the key posts: Robin Williams for Secretary of State, Sandra Bernhard as Chief of Staff, Judy Tenuta for Secretary of the Treasury and Richard Lewis as Health & Human Services Secretary. In addition, the president should add a Secretary of Pleasure and Fun to the Cabinet. Congress should form a bi-partisan Joy Committee whose sole purpose is to attract and disseminate joyful activities around the country.

The best role model I can suggest for all this is Silvio Conte, the late Congressman from the First District in Massachusetts. He once had the courage to wear a rubber pig's nose onto the floor of Congress to emphasize his opposition to pork-barrel legislation. Sometimes we have to laugh just to keep from crying.

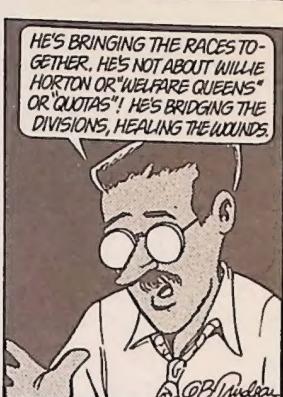
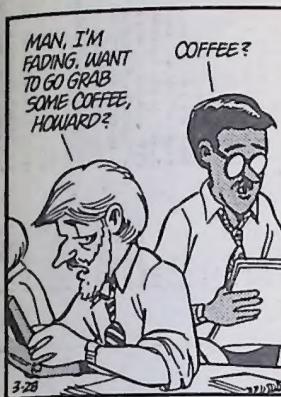
# Doonesbury

BY G.B. TRUDEAU



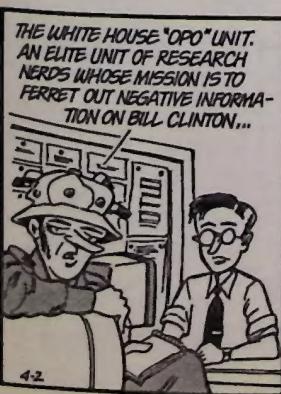
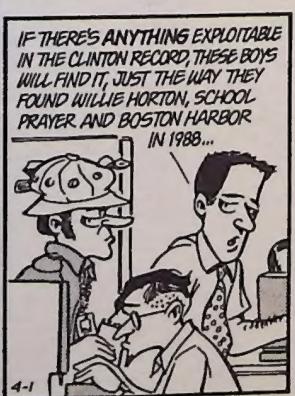
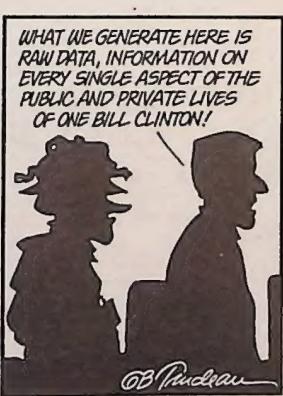
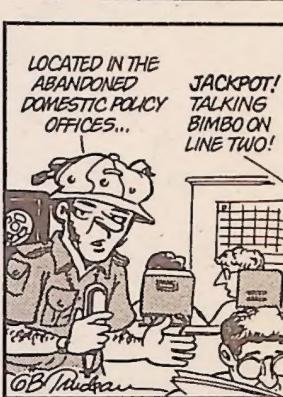
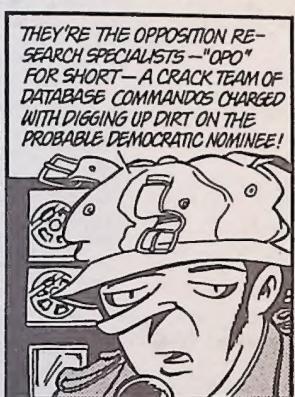
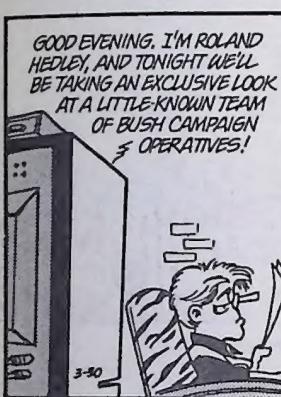


ATTA BOY!  
BACK FROM  
THE ABYSS!



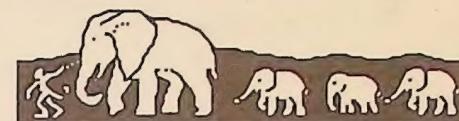
ANOTHER GOOD REPORTER MISSING IN ACTION.

HE'S GOING TO BREAK OUR HEARTS, ISN'T HE?



NOT YET, BUT IT'S HOUSE-TO-HOUSE.

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